

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An ink jet printing method which comprises:  
directly forming an image on a printing medium on the basis  
of signals of image data; and fixing the image to produce a  
printed matter, wherein said image formation is carried out  
by an ink jet system of ejecting an oily ink by an  
electrostatic field. The method preferably further  
comprises cleaning an ink jet head, said cleaning step  
comprising: immersing said ink jet head in a cleaning  
solution; and applying voltage to said ink jet head.  
Alternatively, the method preferably further comprises,  
when a malfunction happens, either or both of stopping the  
image formation and eliminating a cause of the malfunction.  
Also disclosed are printing apparatuses suitably used for  
these methods.

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